

San José Prepared!

Community Emergency Response Training

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Summer 2009

* Make a Plan * Build a Kit * Be Prepared * Get Involved *



Disaster Shelter Plans for Persons with Special Needs

Early last month, the Office of Emergency Services completed the *San José Disaster Shelter Annex for Vulnerable Populations*. The document is the result of a year-long partnership with various city departments, emergency managers in the region, community-based organizations, and state agencies to fill a gap identified by Congress-mandated review.

First of its kind in California, the plan provides a framework and strategies to integrate the needs of vulnerable populations into general population disaster shelters. Using a function-based approach, it recognizes that individuals with special needs may encounter additional difficulties in communication, medical care, maintaining independence, supervision, and/or transportation during or after a catastrophe. The plan is a flexible and inclusive model to provide these residents with equal access to safety, comfort, food, medical care, mobility, and social support along with the general population.

Secondly, given the considerable interest in the project throughout the area, a major objective of the plan is to develop a pilot program with a set of standard tools and best practices that can be shared with other cities. Also, key players and interested stakeholders were invited to participate in the process from the beginning, making the collaboration truly regional.

A third key contribution of this initiative is the development of the Accessibility Checklist for Disaster Shelters and standardized survey protocols that would help evaluate the appropriateness of prospective sites for

hosting both the general and special needs populations during or after a catastrophe. The checklist was developed by Steve

Wing, San José's ADA coordinator until his recent retirement, with input from Richard Devylder of the California Emergency Management Agency, Office for Access and Functional Needs; Kelle Rimmel and Anna Swardenski, project consultants; and staff from the Disability Access Section of the California State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).

To assist this effort, DOR conducted an all-day training at the Southside Community Center on September 25, 2008. Twenty-four people attended, including city staff; city and county commissioners; representatives from the American Red Cross; community-based organizations serving people with disabilities; and the Santa Clara County's Office of Emergency Services, Social Services Agency, and Emergency Managers Association. They learned how to use the newly developed Accessibility Checklist. They were also taught the correct ways to use tools such as tape measures, digital levels, and door pressure gauges by applying those instruments to the Southside Community Center as a practice site.

After the training, participants were divided into teams to survey a total of 12 potential shelter sites throughout San José. These sites included high schools and community centers. Using the Accessibility Checklist, each team was responsible for evaluating one or more sites and documenting issues that might arise if these sites were selected as shelters for vulnerable populations. The survey results were included in the final report available for download from the OES website (<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices>).

On March 24, 2009, the Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort (CADRE) and the Emergency Managers Association of Santa Clara County presented OES with an "Excellence in Preparedness" award for its initiative in developing a program that would enhance the city's ability to serve populations with special needs during a disaster.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The highest recorded temperature in San José was 109°F on June 14, 2000.

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

To save taxpayers money and go green, future San José Prepared! newsletters will be available only in electronic format.

Current and past issues can be downloaded from <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices/sanjoseprepared/newsletters.asp>

Free computer access is available at San José public libraries.

Disaster Preparedness Conference

OES was invited to be a sponsor for the 2009 Disaster Preparedness Conference held at Pioneer High School on April 25. The goal of the conference was to provide emergency training and information to residents in District 10 and Old Almaden areas. To accomplish this goal, the event organizers developed a two-front strategy: a one-day conference to create community awareness and a year-round program throughout neighborhoods in the district to provide disaster preparedness training to 1,500 residents. Alex Fraser, a San José

Prepared! volunteer instructor, co-chaired this grass-roots project with Terry Giovanini Davis.

Over 500 people attended the conference. A variety of classes and workshops were offered throughout the day. Alex Fraser made two 2-hour presentations on home and family emergency preparedness, which was attended by over 75 adults. David Bushman, another San José *Prepared!* volunteer instructor, gave three presentations on emergency supply planning. Girl Scouts and church youth groups led games to teach small children the “duck, cover, and hold” technique to

prepare for earthquakes. The Santa Clara County Sheriff Department’s canine search and rescue unit taught the children what to do if they were ever lost during a disaster. Over 300 families ordered disaster survival kits. Blood donations collected by the American Red Cross exceeded expectations.

Both San José *Prepared!* and RACES hosted booths to provide free public information materials and answer questions about emergency preparedness. In addition to Alex and David, six San José *Prepared!* volunteers helped out this event (see photo on page 3).

Community Earthquake Drill

“This is our 14th annual exercise. We always hold an earthquake drill on the weekend before April 1st, because it would be foolish not to prepare,” said Dr. Lois Fiedler, a San José *Prepared!* alumnus and coordinator of the emergency response team in the Millpond mobile homes community. This year, OES Director Kim Shunk and Administrative Officer Scarlett Li Lam attended the event as guests on Saturday, March 28.

Prior to the drill, 60 volunteers, divided into nine teams, received training on damage assessment and other disaster responses. To indicate their needs for assistance after an emergency, residents were asked to post signs at their windows. A red sign stands for “help ASAP,” yellow for “help when you can

get to me,” and green for “we’re okay.”

Within minutes after a simulated earthquake took place at 10 a.m., the volunteers were mobilized to conduct a quick, visual assessment of their blocks and send information to the incident command center via FRS two-way radios. They then systematically checked on each home, visiting those with red signs first before proceeding to the yellow ones. (In a real disaster, the volunteer teams would first attend to homes with red signs, and then move on to those with no signs before going to the yellow ones.)

At the hotwash meeting, Kim shared three observations about the drill: good communication, efficient logistics, and delicious earthquake cakes. Scarlett promoted the San José *Prepared!* classes. Delbert Harbold (K6JPX), a San José

RACES member, demonstrated the mobile radio system that he put together. It is a light and compact system with a table-top antenna and runs on a small battery. Weighing about 18 pounds, the system can be easily fit into a tool box.



Delbert Harbold's mobile radio system

If you are interested in helping your neighborhood organized for emergency preparedness, please check out ideas on the OES website.

Communications Emergency By Bill Moffitt, San José RACES

Early in the morning on April 9, vandals broke into communications lockers and cut a series of optical cables, disrupting telephone, Internet, and emergency communications, including 9-1-1 service, in southern Santa Clara County and regions beyond.

In addition to activating their emergency operation centers, emergency managers in the region mobilized volunteer ham radio operators from local ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) to assist with communications support.

Ham operators in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Watsonville

took up positions in hospitals, fire stations, and parks to provide emergency communications service to the public. San José RACES was not formally activated. Several of its members, however, participated in the relief effort, because they also belong to the Santa Clara County RACES. They included John Amos (K6TVM), Chris DeMille (K16FAN), Ray Rogoway (W6RAR), Peter Walde (K16DDX), Gene Hill (N6ANE), and Bob Steinberg (K6RPS).

By late afternoon on the same day, service was restored to most areas and many volunteers were able to go home. Several remained on station throughout the night to provide backup assistance in case problems occurred again.

Overall, about 80 ham operators volunteered their time to support their communities during this crisis. They played an important role in bringing the communications emergency to a quick and safe end.

San José RACES will hold their annual field day at Noble Park in San José on June 27 and 28. You are invited to come and learn about what ham radio is today, how these volunteers provide vital services to the community during disasters, and how to get involved with emergency preparedness in San José. More information about San José RACES can be found at <http://www.sjraces.org>.

Recent Events



OES Director Kim Shunk, Administrative Officer Scarlett Li Lam, and Training Specialists Saman Saffarzadeh and Alvin Galang with the new San José Prepared! graduates. Picture taken on May 16, 2009.



Betty Harbold, left, Delbert Harbold, center, and Dr. Lois Fiedler at the Millpond community earthquake drill. Picture taken on March 28, 2009.



San José Prepared! volunteers, from left, Yvette Galindo, Don Muger, Patty Brooks, Ed Brooks, Yvonne Wong, Rebecca Wang, and intern Yolanda Aguirre at the District 10 Disaster Preparedness Conference. Picture taken on April 25, 2009.



San José Prepared! intern Yolanda Aguirre and volunteer instructor David Bushman presenting the Spanish 2-hour Home and Family Disaster Preparedness class to a parents group at Washington Elementary School. Picture taken on May 5, 2009.



San José Prepared! volunteers John Palmer and John Amos at the Office on Aging's Spring Into Health Fitness Walk at Kelley Park. Picture taken on May 15, 2009.



Training Specialist Saman Saffarzadeh explaining how to conduct a head-to-toe assessment to participants at The Villages Golf and County Club. Picture taken on March 16, 2009.

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As part of San José's Green Vision, send us an email to request an **electronic version** of the newsletter



Go Green and Save Public Funds!
To continue receiving this newsletter electronically, please email us at SJPrepared@sanjoseca.gov by June 30, 2009

2-HOUR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATIONS

No Fee

DATES	TIME	LOCATION
7/9/09	6 - 8 pm	Almaden Community Center
7/16/09	6 - 8 pm	Willow Glen Library
7/23/09	6 - 8 pm	Roosevelt Community Center
7/30/09	6 - 8 pm	Mayfair Community Center
8/6/09	6 - 8 pm	Shirakawa Community Center
8/11/09	6 - 8 pm	West San José Community Center
9/3/09	6 - 8 pm	Edenvale Library
9/9/09	6 - 8 pm	Alviso Library
9/18/09	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Evergreen Community Center
9/29/09	6 - 8 pm	Camden Community Center

20-HOUR SAN JOSÉ PREPARED! COURSE (six-module version)

Fee: \$40.00*

MODULE	DATE	TIME	TOPIC
1	6/15/09	6 - 8 pm	Personal & Family Preparedness
2	6/18/09	6 - 8 pm	Fire Safety
3	6/20/09	9 am - 3 pm	Neighborhood Organization; Hazardous Materials; Hands-on Fire Suppression Activity
4	6/22/09	6 - 8 pm	START Triage
5	6/25/09	6 - 8 pm	Light Search & Rescue and Damage Assessment; Hands-on Exercises
6	6/27/09	9 am - 3 pm	Terrorism; Pandemic Influenza; Graduation

* Fee may be subject to change. Full payment due by end of first class.

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

For latest information, including complete class schedules through **June 30, 2010**, please visit:
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices/sanjoseprepared/classcal.asp>

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Requests can be made by calling 408-277-4595 or 408-294-9337

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